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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

A system adapted to support dental patient scheduling, comprising:
a network to communicate information relating to a manufacturing stage;
one or more patient computers coupled to the network; and

- a server coupled to the network, the server communicating manufacturing progress information with the patient computer and performing patient scheduling when one or more dental appliances reach a predetermined manufacturing progress.
- 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the server sends a message to a patient when the appliances reach a predetermined manufacturing stage.
- 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the server sends a message to a patient when the appliances are being marked.
- 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the server sends a message to a treating professional when the appliances reach one or more intermediate stages of manufacturing.
- 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the server sends an electronic mail message to transmit information relating to manufacturing progress.
 - 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the server maintains calendar pages for the treating professionals.

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- 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the server invites a patient to access an online calendar and schedule an appointment when the appliances reach the last stage of manufacturing.
- 8. The system of claim 1, further comprising a network of treating professionals coupled to the network.
 - 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the server requests intervention from manufacturing personnel when one or more manufacturing stages fall behind schedule.
 - 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the server updates the patient with information relating to a delay caused by manufacturing slippage.

A system adapted to support scheduling appointments relating to one or more dental appliances, comprising:

a network to communicate information relating to the community;

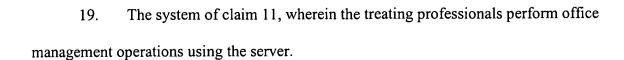
one or more patient computers coupled to the network;

one or more treating professional computers coupled to the network; and
a server coupled to the network, the server storing data for each patient and
performing patient scheduling when the dental appliances reach a predetermined
manufacturing progress.

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- 12. The system of claim 11, wherein the server sends a message to a patient when the appliances reach a predetermined stage in manufacturing.
- 13. The system of claim 11, wherein the server sends a message to a patient when the appliances are being marked.
 - 14. The system of claim 11, wherein the server sends a message to the treating professional computer when the appliances reach one or more manufacturing stages.
 - 15. The system of claim 11, wherein the server sends an electronic mail message conveying information relating to manufacturing progress.
 - 16. The system of claim 11, wherein the server maintains an on-line calendar to schedule appointments with a patient.
 - 17. The system of claim 11, wherein the server invites a patient to log-on and schedule an appointment when the appliances reach a predetermined manufacturing stage.
- 20 18. The system of claim 11, wherein the treating professionals include dentists or orthodontists.

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A method to support dental patient scheduling relating to one or more dental appliances, comprising:

communicating manufacturing progress information with a patient computer over a wide area network; and

performing patient scheduling when one or more dental appliances reach a predetermined manufacturing progress.